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!!
HE'S HOSPITALIZED NOW.
!!
HAL!
I...DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I SHOULD'VE DONE...
WHAT HAPPENED ...?
WE GOT SEPARATED DURING THE INVESTIGATION.
WHEN I FOUND HIM, HE WAS...
..I JUST REMEMBERED THAT YOU'D BE IN THE HOSPITAL, TOO..
HAL... HAL...!

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PLEASE CALM DOWN! WE NEED TO DO A BODY CHECK!
I'M FINE NOW, SO RELEASE ME FROM HOSPITAL!
LET ME GO.
yeah!
HEY! LET ME GO!
HA!
PLEASE CALM DOWN! MR. KURABAYASHI!
LIKE I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU...
...EH...?
HA?
HE'S SO MEAN. I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW ...
IT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE THE IDIOT THAT BROUGHT ME TO THE HOSPITAL!
SEE... HE REALLY IS MEAN.
BUT HE REALLY IS INJURED!

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BANG
おお
AR GH!
HAI----!
CALM DOWN, AND LISTEN TO WHAT THE DOCTORS SAY!
DO YOU WANT TO END UP LIKE LAST TIME...?
WHEN YOU LEFT HOSPITAL, BUT YOUR WOUND ONLY GOT WORSE?
I'M TELLING YOU NOW THAT I AM FINE...
SO HEAVY..
YOU
...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW WORRIED I WAS...
SOB
SOB..

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...I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT GUY SURFACED AGAIN...
SAWAKI... THE "RIGHT ARM OF RYUUGEN"?
BANG
THERE ARE ONLY SOME MARKS LEFT ON MY NECK. OTHERWISE, I'M JUST PEACHY.
THAT'S GOOD.
CLICK
THIS GUY WILL DEFINITELY SHOW HIMSELF IF WE KEEP TRACKING RYUUGEN.
IT APPEARS THAT THE RUMORS ARE TRUE. THE SAME HEIGHT AND ABLE TO CHANGE HIS APPEARANCE AT WILL.
SO, IT'S LIKE THAT?
HAL WAS LUCKY THIS TIME. HE NEARLY DIED.
.. NEARLY?

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SAWAKI DIDN'T KILL HIM. THERE MUST BE A REASON WHY...
WHY?
IF THAT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO KILL HAL, THEN THE JOB DIDN'T NEED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED SPECIFICALLY BY THE RIGHT ARM OF RYUUGEN, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THERE MIGHT BE SOME CONNECTION WITH THE "SWITCH" THAT APPEARED 16 YEARS AGO ...
...IS IT SWITCH...
IS THERE REALLY A CONNECTION WITH SWITCH?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
!

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I GOT IT...!
YEAH...
HA-!
INFORMATION DIVISION
AH---!
EH? NO! YOU GOT IT FIRST!
HEY DIRECTOR, I DECIPHERED ONE OF THE CODES.
HAHA, LET ME SEE.
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE ABLE TO DECODE IT, AFTER INTENSIVE DECIPHERING, WHAT YOU DECODED WAS JUST ANOTHER SET OF CODES.
.....
DO YOU WANT ME TO EXPLAIN ?
YOU JUST WANT TO SHOW OFF.
HE REALLY LIKES THAT..
...YEAH, GO AHEAD.

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FIRSTLY, THERE'S THIS SET OF NUMBERS.

443542543132

AS EVERYONE CAN SEE, IT CONSISTS OF NUMERALS RANGING FROM 1 TO 5. AND...

THERE ARE 12 NUMBERS TOTAL, AN EVEN NUMBER.

IF ONE NUMBER REPRESENTS A CHARACTER, THEN THERE IS A CHANCE THE CHARACTERS COULD REPEAT, BUT WE'LL IGNORE THAT FOR NOW.

WE SHOULD ASSUME THAT 2 DIGITS REPRESENT ONE LETTER.

writes

writes

SO, IT WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS: "44," "35," "42," "54,"...

NOW LOOK AT THESE SHEETS.

BECAUSE THE LARGEST NUMBER IS 5, I DIVIDED HIRAGANA AND OCCIDENTAL CHARACTERS INTO 5 DIFFERENT GROUPS.

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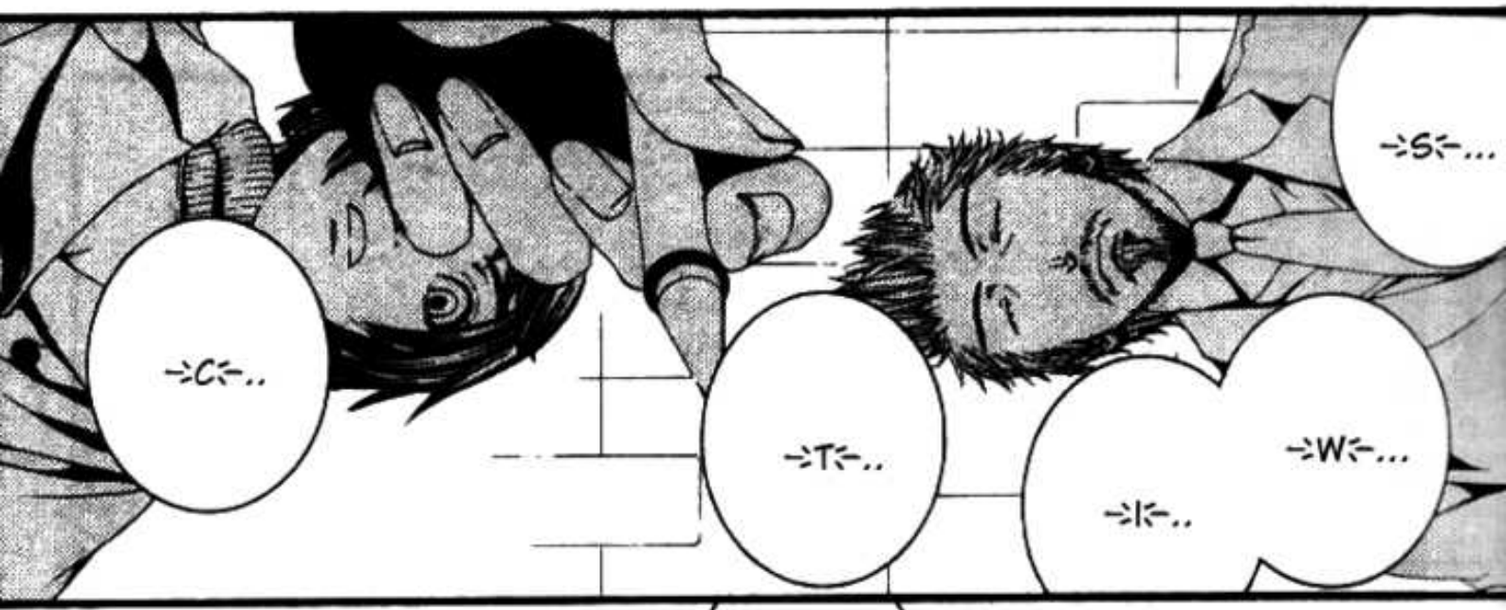
SO TAKE THE NUMBER "44" GO DOWN 4, AND THEN ACROSS 4. WHAT CHARACTER DO YOU GET?
CORRECT
IN THIS WAY, WE CAN DECIPHER THE REST OF THE NUMBERS.
「TE」?



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THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS INVESTIGATION.
switch...
DON'T INVESTIGATE ANY FURTHER...
IBU?
.....
AH, SWITCH ...
DIRECTOR, YOU SEEM TO KNOW SOMETHING.
BUT YOU'RE LIKE IBU, JUST KEEPING SILENT ABOUT IT.
YOU OBVIOUSLY WOULDN'T KNOW. IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...
WHERE SHOULD I START...
SOME-THING THAT MIGHT BE RELATED TO "SWITCH".
DIRECTOR KATSURAGI, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
AH... SO IT'S THAT...

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I KEEP THINKING ABOUT WHEN THE BOMB EXPLODED. I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHAT METHOD THEY USED.
THAT GUY ACTUALLY PLANNED EVERYTHING HIMSELF.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
EVEN SOME PEOPLE FROM THE YOKOHAMA BRANCH KNOW THAT THERE WAS A SPY COORDINAT-ING...
YOU ....
ARE YOU SUSPECTING OUR COLEAGUES..
THERE ARE SOME SUSPICOUS PEOPLE!
I DON'T WANT OTHER COLLEAGUES TO END UP LIKE ME.
YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL!
SO...
YES...
...THE COLLEAGUE WHO BETRAYED US... WHO IS IT...?

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THIS IS YOUR DIARY.
IF YOU DON'T WANT US HERE, YOU CAN JUST TELL US.
SO, WE WILL LOOK AFTER YOU FOR NOW.
THE INVESTIGATION OFFICER IN CHARGE OF LOOKING AFTER YOU HAS GONE OUT TEMPORARILY.

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HAS HE REMEMBERED ANYTHING?
TSUYUKI... IS HE FROM THE YOKOHAMA BRANCH ...?
THAT KID WITH AMNESIA ...
NO, NOT YET.
HMM... TSUYUKI AND ISOBE ARE LOOKING AFTER HIM NOW.
ARE YOU OKAY?
...HOW IS HE?
COUGH COUGH

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WHY WAS THIS MISSION SPECIFICALLY FOR YOU, AND NOT SOMEONE ELSE?
AH, MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE ...
A SIMILAR EXPERI-ENCE?
BUT THAT WAS WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
OR MAYBE THERE WAS ANOTHER TIME, AND I JUST HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF IT.
I'VE HAD A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE ?
I...

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HAVE LOST MY MEMORY, TOO.
IT WAS SIXTEEN YEARS AGO ---
THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY OF MONITORING THE DRUG TRAFFICKING.
PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T POSSIBLY OBTAIN THE DRUG SHOWED SIGNS OF IT ANYWAY.
AND ...
SOME KIND OF NEW DRUG BEGAN SURFACING AROUND THE KANTO REGION. KANTO WAS THE CENTER OF THE DRUG DEALING.
AT THE TIME, THE KANTO MINISTRY OF HEALTH OBVIOUSLY NOTICED IT
AND CONTINUED TO SEARCH FOR THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR DEALING THE DRUGS.
BUT ...
EVERYTHING THEY DID WAS USELESS.
USELESS?

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THEY LEFT NO EVIDENCE BEHIND.
!
EVERYONE RELATED TO THE INCIDENT,
INCLUDING VICTIMS AND SUSPECTS... WERE ALL KILLED.
AND...
I HAVE THE SAME FEELING TO WHAT YOU SAID TO ME YESTERDAY ...
TAKE
"HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO RUN AN INVESTIGATION WITH NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER?"
HINIRIHC
I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING ABOUT IT!
WHY WAS IT DURING THAT TIME THAT "THAT THING" UNEXPECTEDLY CAME OUT?
.....
I DON'T WANT TO BRING WHAT HAPPENED SIXTEEN YEARS AGO INTO THIS INVESTIGATION.
BUT...

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THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO DIED EVERYDAY. ALL CAUSED BY THE "DEATH DRUG".
WHEN THAT INCIDENT OCCURRED, I WAS STILL A STUDENT, YET I REMEMBER IT CLEARLY.
IT WAS ON THE NEWS EVERYDAY.
THOSE WHO WERE KILLED OR COMMITTED SUICIDE WERE JUST A FRACTION OF IT.
BUT...
THE LOCATIONS IN WHICH EACH PERSON DIED WAS NEVER THE SAME, BUT THEY WERE ALL DUE TO THE DRUG.
UPON POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS, IT WAS REVEALED THAT NONE OF THE VICTIMS HAD ANY REACTIONS TO THE DRUG.
AT THAT TIME, THE NARCOTICS CONTROL ONLY CONSISTED OF ONE DIVISION.
BUT SOME OF THE INVESTIGATORS REFUSED TO GIVE UP.

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WHICH LEAD TO THE DEATH OF AN INVESTIGATOR - AN UNNECESSARY SACRIFICE.
ALL INVESTIGATIONS WERE HALTED THEN, AND NOTHING WAS HEARD OF IT ANYMORE.
ON QUICKLY FINDING THE ORIGIN OF THE DRUGS...
MOST OF THE INVESTIGATIONS WERE STOPPED ONCE THE POST-MORTEM RESULTS SURFACED, YET THE OTHERS INSISTED...
THEREFORE ...
FURTHERMORE, RUMORS SAY THAT ANY EVIDENCE AND REPORTS REGARDING THE INVESTIGATION WERE ALL LOST.
THEY WERE EITHER MISPLACED, OR DE-STROYED.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO INVESTIGATE AN INCIDENT WITHOUT EVIDENCE.
THE NAME OF THAT DRUG WAS...
NOTHING RELATING TO THAT MATTER AT ALL HAS BEEN LOST.
NO EVIDENCE IS LEFT WHATSOEVER.

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THERE ARE ALSO RUMORS ...SUGGESTING THAT THE DRUG HAS NO SIDE EFFECTS, AND LEAVES NO RESIDUAL EVIDENCE ON THE PERSON.
THE DRUG ACTS LIKE A SWITCH, BEING ABLE TO EASILY CHANGE ONESELF.

DANGER!
I... HAVE NO MEMORY OF ANYTHING BEFORE I WAS SEVEN.
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYMORE, SINCE I WORKED AT THE KINKI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AT THAT TIME.
I SOMETIMES QUESTION THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT DRUG ...
DID IT ACTUALLY EXIST?
I FIRST LEARNT ABOUT THE DRUG FROM A FORMER CHIEF..

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WHO AM I?
THE ACCIDENT WASN'T THAT SERIOUS, BUT I WAS HIT ON THE HEAD. I COULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
AT THAT TIME, MY MIND WAS A COMPLETE BLANK, AND I DIDN'T RECOG-NIZE ANYONE AROUND ME.
I WAS SO AFRAID AND ANXIOUS, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO NEXT...
SO...
I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW HE FEELS. IF WE KEEP BUGGING HIM
IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE HARMFUL ...
IN THE END, DID YOU EVER REMEMBER?
...DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW?
THAT'S SEVEN YEARS' WORTH OF MEMORIES.
I WAS STILL YOUNG. AND I WAS ABLE TO CATCH UP IN SCHOOL VERY QUICKLY, SO IT WAS FINE.
AND...

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...EVEN SO...
WHY NOT USE THE EXACT SAME METHOD FOR THAT BOY, TOO?
MY PARENTS WERE ALWAYS BY MY SIDE, SO I FELT SAFE.
I WASN'T AFRAID, EVEN THOUGH I LOST MY MEMORIES.
THE EXACT SAME METHOD?
THE SAME AS WHEN YOU WERE A KID. CALM HIS FEARS AND MAKE HIM FEEL SAFE.
JUST LIKE ME...
IN ORDER TO HELP HIM REGAIN HIS MEMORIES FASTER.

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YOU ALWAYS TRY TO HELP OTHERS, BUT YOU END UP ANNOYING THEM INSTEAD...BUT THIS TIME, HAVE YOU FOUND OUT WHAT YOU REALLY NEED TO DO?
IF YOU DON'T BEHAVE WELL, THEN I WOULD BE ANNOYED.
YEAH?
THANK YOU, HAL. YOU'RE AWE-SOME...
AH... AH!
YES.
I UNDERSTAND ...
MAYBE IT'S THE ONE WHO HAS THE KEY TO "SWITCH" ...
THE KID WHO LOST HIS MEMORY ...
THAT BRAT'S MEMORIES ...
WHO LOST HIS MEMORY..

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THAT PLACE SHOULD ALLOW ME TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING !!!
!
INFORMATION DIVISION
NOW, I ALSO KNOW THAT DECIPHERING THE CODE IS VERY IMPORTANT...
RING RING RING
BUT THE INFORMATION DIVISION ONLY CONSISTS OF FOUR PEOPLE,
AND THREE OF THEM ARE REQUIRED TO DECIPHER THE CODE. AND WE ARE ALSO VERY BUSY ON OTHER THINGS....
.....
RING RING RING
!!
RING RING RING

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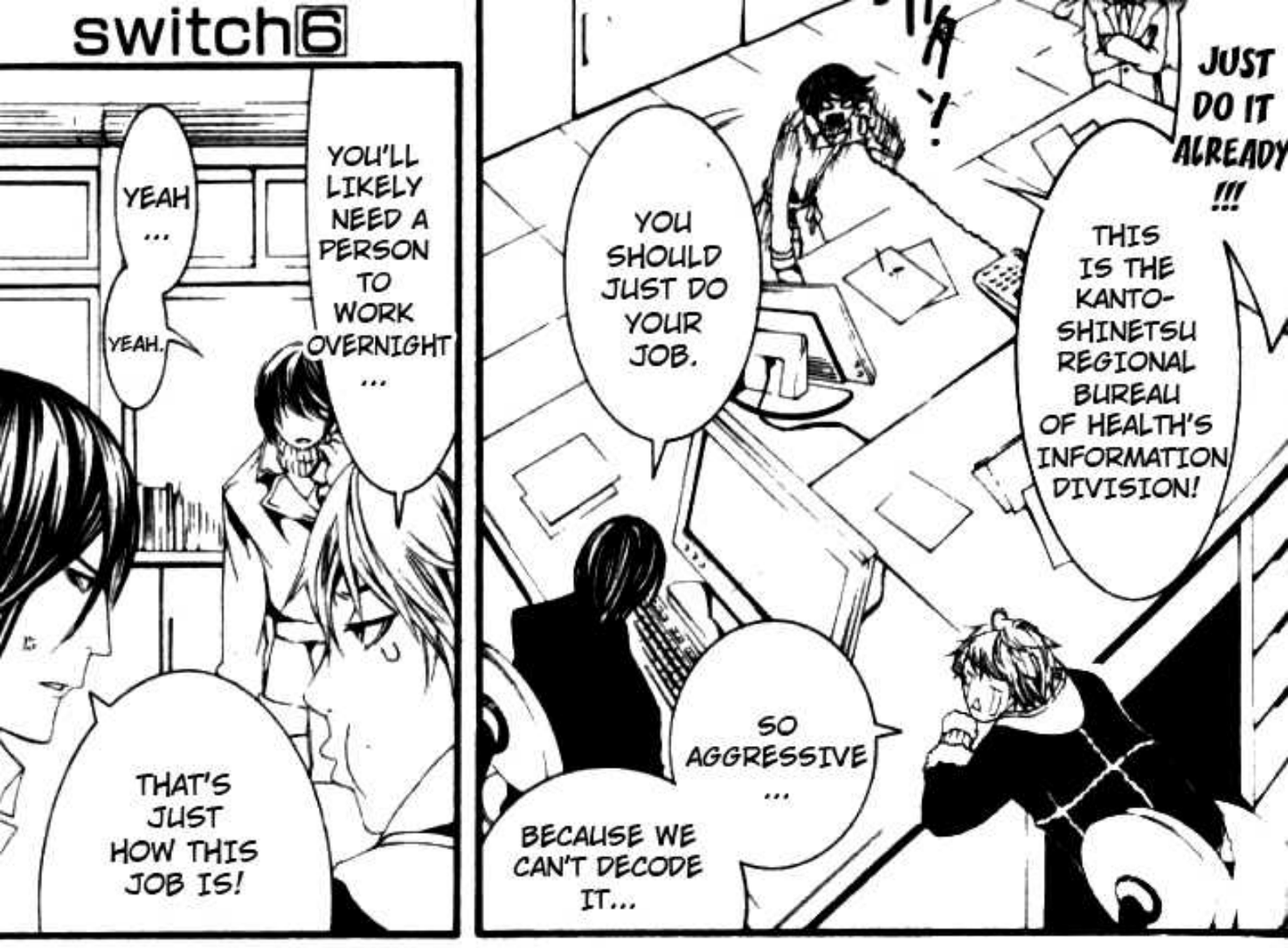
YEAH ...
YEAH.
YOU'LL LIKELY NEED A PERSON TO WORK OVERNIGHT ...
THAT'S JUST HOW THIS JOB IS!
YOU SHOULD JUST DO YOUR JOB.
JUST DO IT ALREADY !!!
THIS IS THE KANTO-SHINETSU REGIONAL BUREAU OF HEALTH'S INFORMATION DIVISION!
SO AGGRESSIVE ...
BECAUSE WE CAN'T DECODE IT...

YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T DECIPHER IT...
MAYBE SO... BUT EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE...
WE CAN AT LEAST USE THE SCRAMBLED LETTERS TO ORDER THEM.

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MAYBE THEY PURPOSEFULLY WANTED US TO GET THIS MESSAGE!
RIIHINIRIHC
IF I'M RIGHT, THEN THERE SHOULD BE AN EASIER WAY OF DECIPHERIG THIS...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF THEY REALLY WANTED TO HIDE THE CODE,
THEN THEY SHOULD HAVE USED A MORE COMPLICATED METHOD.
BASICALLY ...
EVEN IF WE DID USE MICROCHIPS, WE'RE STILL DECIPHERING IT QUITE QUICKLY, AREN'T WE?
NIRIIIRIN
THE CODE IS NOT REALLY IMPOR-TANT.
EVEN EASIER THAN THIS...
AH!
?

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THIS IS TOO EASY. IT MAKES ME FEEL UNEASY...
AND...
YOU DECI-PHERED IT?
MASAMI?
THIS MAKES ME LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT ....
IF THE ANSWER'S CORRECT, THEN IT SURE WAS SIMPLE.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

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.....
COME BACK SOON
???
EH...
THAT WAS TOTALLY INAPPRO-PRIATE.
I TOLD HIM THE TRUTH, IT'S JUST...
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HIM ANYWAY? YOU LEAD HIM TO BELIEVE THAT BEING SLIGHTLY INJURED WAS EQUIVALENT TO BEING ON THE VERGE OF DEATH! AND HE WAS ACTUALLY CRYING!

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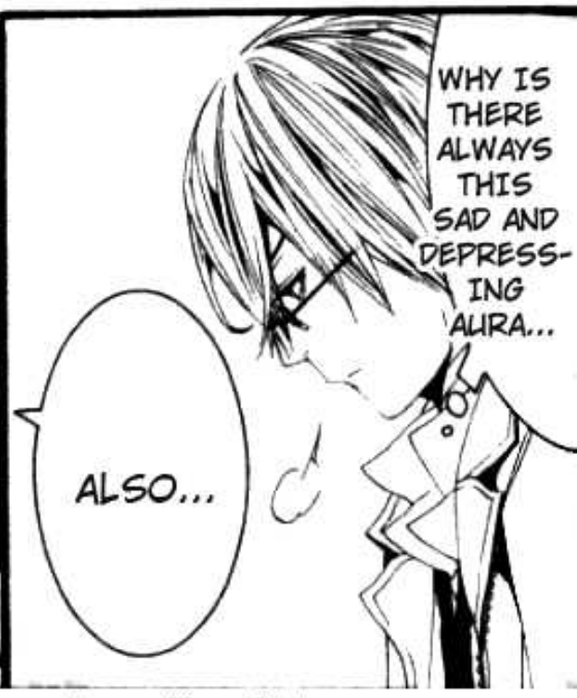

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QUIT JOKING! I WILL NOT PULL OUT!
DO YOU WANT TO BE INJURED AGAIN?
YOU ARE TO STOP INVESTIGATING THE RYUUGEN.
!
WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO, TOO!
YOU ARE TOO RASH AND IMPULSIVE, AND THIS TIME YOU NEARLY...!

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IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, THEN SAWAKI WILL COME AFTER YOU! THEREFORE, WE'VE DECIDED TO DROP YOU FROM THE CASE.
IT'S JUST TOO DANGEROUS! JUST FORGET ABOUT IT!
THAT'S BULLSHIT!
NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
IF HE REALLY WANTED TO KILL ME, HE WOULD HAVE DONE SO ALREADY.
...SAWAKI...?
BUT HE DIDN'T DO IT
AND....
.....
WHAT?

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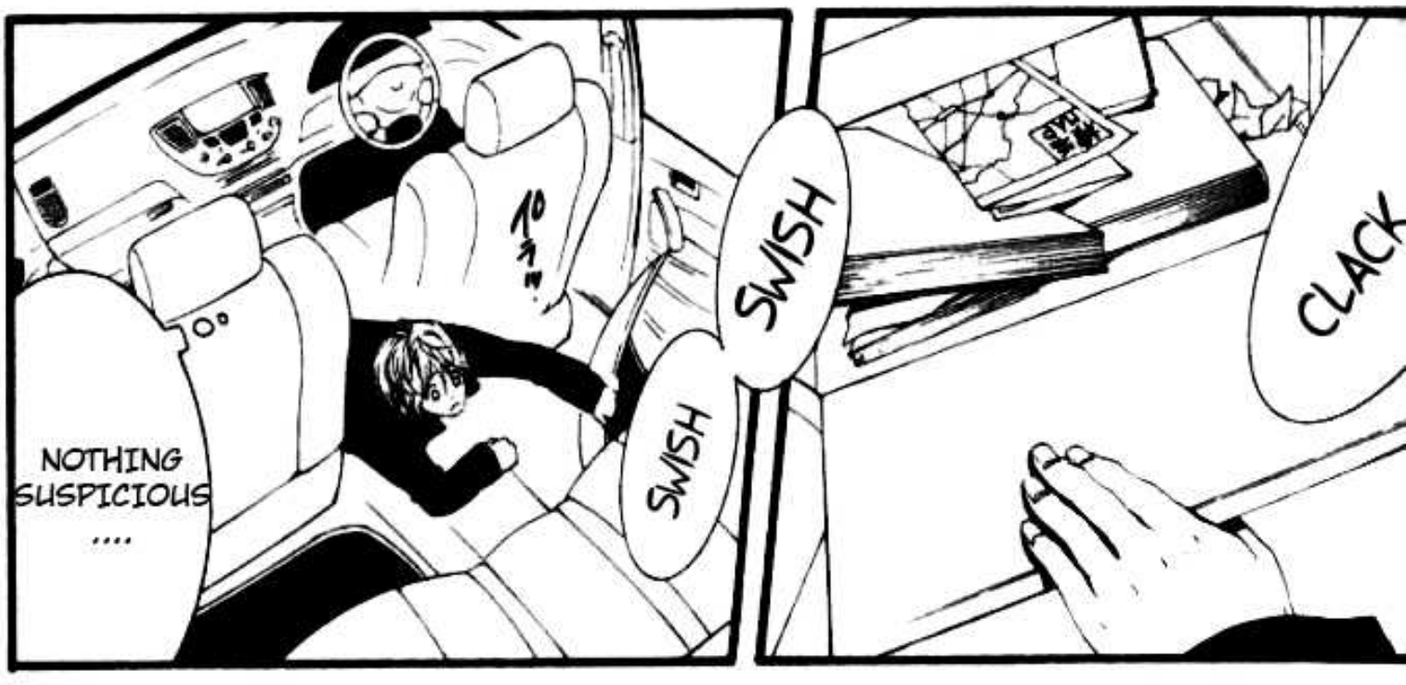

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DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, ISOBE.
DO YOU ACTUALLY WANT HIM TO REMEMBER?
!
IF HE COULD REGAIN HIS MEMORIES, THEN WOULDN'T WE BE ABLE TO GET INFORMATION ON RYUUGEN?
YES...
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
WHAT NEXT?
OF COURSE!

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!!
WE ARE GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE RUMORS!
SAWAKI MENTIONED "SWITCH" TO HAL!
...IT'S "SWITCH" AGAIN?
CLACK
HMM.
IF THERE'S A CONNECTION BETWEEN "SWITCH" AND RYUUGEN,
THEN WE CAN CONTINUE WHERE THE INVESTIGATION OFFICERS LEFT OFF SIXTEEN YEARS AGO!
RING RING RING

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HOW IS YOUR INVESTIGATION GOING?

I HAVE LOCKED A TARGET FOR INVESTIGATION,

AND FOLLOWED HIM FROM MORNING UNTIL

ONLY ONE PERSON?

HELLO.

IT'S ISOBE.

IT'S SHINGO TSUYUKI, AN INVESTIGATOR FROM THE YOKOHAMA BRANCH.

I HAVE ALREADY CONFIRMED THAT HE IS MONITORING THE BOY'S RECOVERY, AND HEARD HIM RECEIVING ORDERS FROM A CERTAIN SOMEONE.

GO CHECK HIS BANK ACCOUNT

THERE SHOULD BE MORE THAN WHAT HIS WAGE COVERS.

I UNDERSTAND. I WILL CONFIRM THIS.

AND.....

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THE POSSIBILITY OF TSUYUKI USING DRUGS IS FAIRLY HIGH.
I UNCOVERED A WRAPPER MOSTLY LIKELY CONTAINING DD IN HIS CAR...
MURMUR
!
ISOBE? HOW ARE YOU?

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BEEP
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? HAVE YOU PRETENDED TO BE RIGHT ARM?
THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS.
BUT I WILL NOT FORGET WHAT I HAVE TO DO.
CLOSE
"THE LAST DAY" IS READY, AND IS ABOUT TO GO AHEAD.
YOU HAVE TO PREPARE YOURSELF, TOO.
CLICK
"THE LAST DAY"?

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THEY EVEN INSTALLED TRACKING DEVICES!
!
SO IT'S RYUUGEN AGAIN...?
OF COURSE.
MY MEMORIES ARE USEFUL TO YOU, BUT A HUGE RISK FOR RYUUGEN.
THEY HAVE BEEN MONITORING ME AND MY PROGRESS IN RECOVERING MEMORIES.

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IT SHOULD BE NEAR... YOKOHAMA'S RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.
ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW THE WAY?
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
THE THINGS THAT I STILL CANNOT REMEMBER.
I WANT TO SEE WITH MY OWN EYES...
IT'S JUST THAT ...
MY MEMORIES ARE SO TERRIFYING.
JUST LIKE NIGHTMARES, THEY CONTINUE TO COME...
THE ME IN MY DREAMS IS HAPPY.

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IF I REMEMBERED EVERYTHING, THEN I WOULD SURELY DRIVE MYSELF INSANE...
SO TERRI-FYING ....
AND WOULD DEFINITELY BE KILLED ...
PLEASE, SAVE ME..
I DON'T WANT TO RETURN TO RYUUGEN ...
PLEASE TELL ME...
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
.....

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YOU STILL CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT?
UM....
AREN'T THERE A LOT OF "I"S ...?
YES.
IN THESE LETTERS, THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 7 "I"S.
AND, THEY ARE PLACED IN AN ORDERED MANNER.
I UNDER-STAND!
ORDERED MANNER?

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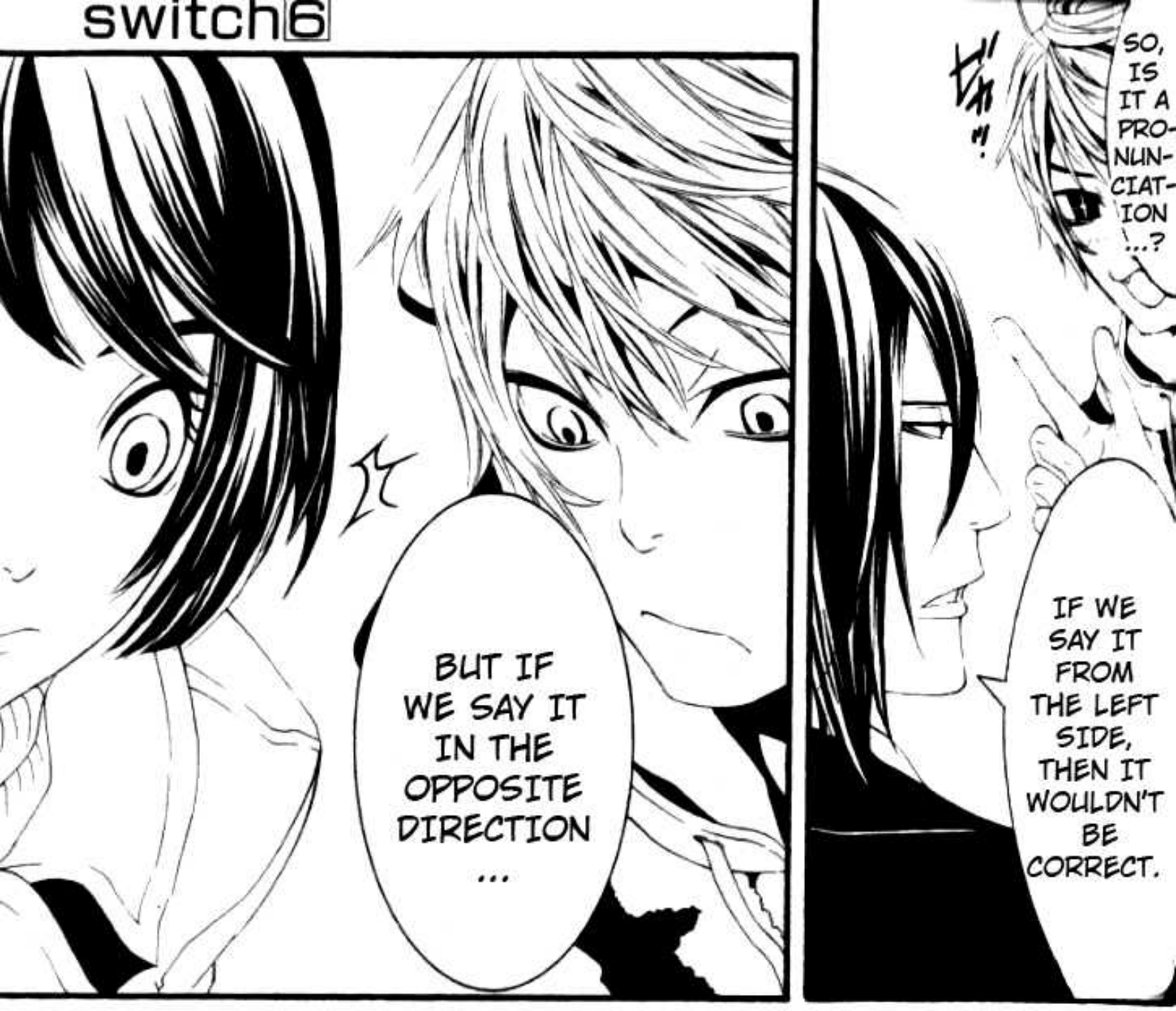
SO, IS IT A PRONUNCIATION...?
IF WE SAY IT FROM THE LEFT SIDE, THEN IT WOULDN'T BE CORRECT.
BUT IF WE SAY IT IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION ...

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SO, ARE ALL RELATED PEOPLE DEAD ?
YES.
THIS INCLUDES ALL EVIDENCE ...
... THEN ...
THE CODE MUST BE TALKING ABOUT "THE SURVIVORS OF PEOPLE RELATED TO SWITCH"...
!
!
RING RING RING

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THE TRACKING DEVICE WAS UNRESPONSIVE A FEW HOURS AGO.
DID YOU REALIZE THAT?
OPEN
HELLO
.....
RING RING RING
.....
I DON'T WANT EXCUSES.
NO, I HAVEN'T CONFIRMED THAT YET...
BUT WHILE I WAS AT THE HOSPITAL WARD, I CONFIRMED SOMETHING ELSE...
....OF COURSE.
TSUYUKI...
WE'RE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THIS FRIENDSHIP ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE ABLE TO COOPERATE NICELY.

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I WILL NOT MAKE ANYMORE MIS-TAKES
I WILL IMMEDI-ATELY SEARCH FOR THE "SUBORDI-NATE".
WHAT ABOUT THAT ANNOYING GUY?
THAT ANNOYING GUY?
...OH YES, HIM...
I HAVE ALREADY FIXED THAT.
GOOD THEN.

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GET CLOSE TO KURABAYASHI.
ANOTHER MISSION?
KURABAYA-SHI?
THE OTHER PEOPLE ARE ALREADY SEARCHING FOR THE SUBORDINATE.
SO, I HAVE ANOTHER MISSION FOR YOU TO COMPLETE.
MURMUR...
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL HIM.

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GREAT INVESTI-GATOR YOU ARE!!
I SCREWED UP.
YOU WHAT...?
LOOK, I'M SORRY!
WE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT YOUR NAME WAS "SHIVA"!
do i look like a hindu god or something...?
WELL, IT'S NOT. IT'S "SHIBA," WITH A "B"!
WE'LL BE SURE TO USE THE CORRECT NAME FROM NOW ON!!
NOW OUR READERS ARE GOING TO BE CON-FUSED!!
NO, THEY WON'T.
THE BLACK ABYSS WILL DEFINITELY MAKE AN EXTRA PAGE EXPLAINING THEIR ERROR.
WAIT, IT'S US!?

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SIGH
WHERE'S ISOBE?
KANTO-SHINETSU REGIONAL BUREAU OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
IF HE REALLY IS WORKING UNDERCOVER FOR RYUUGEN, THEN HE WOULDN'T ACTUALLY TELL US WHERE ISOBE IS
FOOTSTEPS
SORRY I'M LATE.
WHY WOULD HE TURN HIS CELL OFF SO SUDDENLY ...
SHIT, HIS CELL PHONE'S OFF.
TYPE TYPE
WE SHOULD GO ASK HIM.
WASN'T SHINGO WITH HIM AS WELL?
MAYBE, SOME-THING BAD HAP-PENED ...

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KID... WHO LOST HIS MEMORIES ...?
〒225-0x0x
神奈川県横浜市xxx xxxx
IT COULD VERY WELL BE TRUE!
!
IT DOESN'T REVEAL ANY NAMES, BUT ISN'T IT TOO CLOSE TO JUST WRITE IT OFF AS A COINCIDENCE?
...YEAH.
IF THIS BOY HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH SWITCH...
...KAJI...
WE CANNOT USE ASSUMPTIONS WHEN MANAGING CASES.

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BESIDES...
PERSONAL FEELINGS CAN GET IN THE WAY OF GOOD JUDGMENT.
ONCE IT'S BEEN CONFIRMED, WE CAN BE CONFIDENT ABOUT THE RESULTS.
BUT, IT'S BOTH DANGEROUS AND ABSURD FOR YOU TO ASSUME ANYTHING.
HAS HAL CALLED TO CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION YET?
NOT YET.
I ONLY BELIEVE WHAT I SEE WITH MY OWN BUT YOU GUYS KEEP ON BELIEVING IN SWITCH
IF THIS WAS THE ENEMY'S PLAN ALL ALONG, WOULDN'T YOU JUST BE WALKING INTO THEIR TRAP?
DON'T FORGET, YOUR MISSION IS JUST TO INVESTIGATE THE ORGANIZATION RYUUGEN.
THIS TIME, THEY'VE COME PREPARED.

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I APPRECIATE YOUR HARD WORK.
YOU'VE UNCOVERED ANOTHER POSSIBLE THEORY, WHICH IS IMPORTANT.
!
RIGHT...
silen——ce
BUT...
...OKAY.
CAN YOU PLEASE HELP ME INVESTIGATE TSUYUKI SHINGO'S BANK ACCOUNTS?
KAJI...
TELL KAI ABOUT THESE PHOTOS, SO HE CAN INVESTIGATE THEM, TOO.
GOT IT...
...JUST BACK THEN, THE ATMOSPHERE CHANGED COMPLETELY.
...HE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT, BUT STILL, HE'S QUITE A SCARY PERSON.

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I THINK I'M A LITTLE CAR SICK.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HAVE A REST, THEN.
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE IMPATIENT, BUT PUSHING YOURSELF ISN'T GOOD.
YEAH...
WAIT!
GRAB
OPEN
I'LL JUST CONTACT MY DEPARTMENT IN THE MEANTIME.

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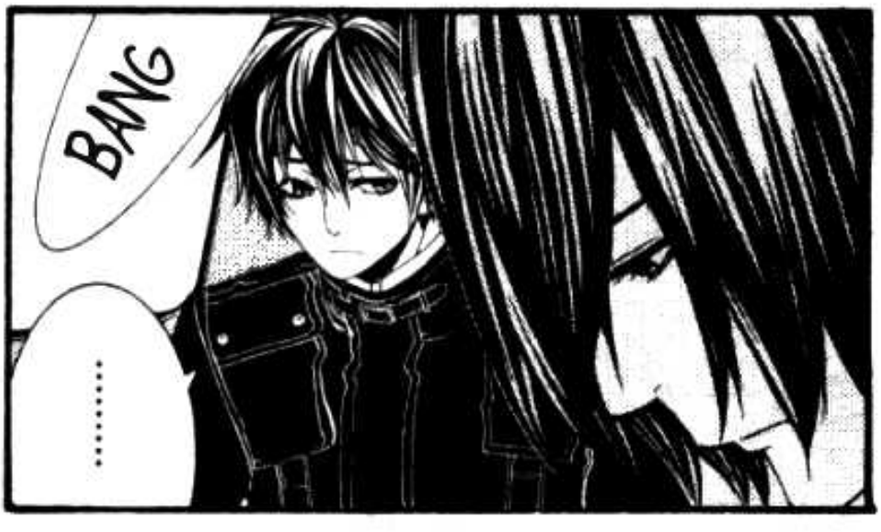

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.....
IF I DO REMEMBER SOMETHING... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
IS THAT SO...
...THE PLACE I WANT TO GO TO IS WHERE I USED TO LIVE WITH MY FAMILY WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
I'D PROBABLY FEEL BETTER IF I SAID IT ALOUD...
MY FATHER WAS A MEMBER OF RYUUGEN. HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE KILLED, BECAUSE HE LIED ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF MONEY HE GOT FROM SELLING DRUGS.
MY PARENTS TOOK ME AND WE RAN FOR OUR LIVES...

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PROMISE ME!
HE DIDN'T KILL ME.
THAT YOU WILL KEEP THOSE EYES UNTIL YOU DIE!
WHEN I REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS, ALL I COULD SEE WAS A SEA OF BLOOD.
I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD BE KILLED, TOO... BUT THAT GUY...
FROM TODAY ON, YOU WILL BE CALLED "AKABANE."
ABANDON YOUR NAME.
ARE YOU... AFRAID OF ME ...?
SQUEEZE
...TERRIBLE THINGS?
AFTER THAT DAY, I BECAME ONE OF THE RIGHT ARM'S SUBORDI-NATES. AND I'VE DONE A LOT OF TERRIBLE THINGS.

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FROM NOW ON, I DON'T CARE ABOUT MY LIFE ANY-MORE.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO WORK FOR RYUUGEN.
I'D JUST BE BETTER OFF BEING DEAD!
IF IT WERE YOU, WHAT WOULD YOU DO? IF YOU TRIED TO ESCAPE, YOU'D RISK FACING HEAVY PUNISHMENT AND TORTURE!
I WANT TO KNOW MY REAL NAME...
NOT THE "AKABANE," WHO IS CONTROLLED BY THE RIGHT ARM.

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MAYBE THEN...I COULD GO BACK TO THE PERSON I USED TO BE...
STOP CRYING, IT'S OKAY NOW!
TRUST US!
WHERE AM I? I DON'T EVEN KNOW THESE PEOPLE!
EVERYTHING'S FINE.
KAI!
SCARED... I'M SO SCARED!
EVERYTHING'S FINE!

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YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIGURE THINGS OUT.
AND ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS WILL GO AWAY!
HUG
YEAH...
.....
YOU WANT ME TO LURE HIM OUT?
BUT, WAIT!
AND YOU WANT ME TO REMOVE KURABAYA-SHI,
LIKE I DID TO ISOBE...
AFTER THIS INCIDENT ENDS, YOU ARE TO IMMEDIATELY LEAVE JAPAN.

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.....

BUT, IF YOU FAIL, YOU WILL DIE.

Y-YES... I UNDER-STAND.

DIRECTOR!

IT'S A FAX FROM THE NAR-COTICS DEPART-MENT.

!

OKAY... CONTACT SHIBA TO CONFIRM THE NAMES...

HOPE THAT YOU CAN DETERMINE THIS PERSON'S IDENTITY ASAP...

THANKS!

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HMM, THIS LOOKS LIKE THAT KID.
FIGURE OUT WHO THIS GUY IS QUICKLY,
AND HELP ME SEND THE INFOR-MATION TO THEM.
...OKAY.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I WANT YOU TO INVESTI-GATE ON THIS.
UNDER-STOOD.
I'LL BE GOING, THEN.
...HAS ISOBE GONE MISSING?
VROOM
SWISH
WOULD ISOBE, WHO'S BEEN IN CHARGE OF MONITORING SHINGO, RANDOMLY GO OFF BY HIMSELF?

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... SAKAI ...?
PLEASE, WAIT HERE.
7/11
I AM KURABAYASHI, FROM THE KANTO-SHINETSE BUREAU OF HEALTH AND WELFARE.
HELLO.
MAY I ASK WHETHER MISS SAKAI IS PRESENT OR NOT?

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HE'S FINALLY STARTED TO ACT.
KIDNAPPING, AND EVEN HOLDING PEOPLE CAPTIVE!
CAP-TIVE?
I MANAGED TO BREAK THROUGH THE ROPES, THOUGH.

HOW IS THE INVESTIGA-TION GOING?
IT'S ALMOST FINISHED; WE JUST NEED TO CONFIRM THE LIST.
DID YOU DO THAT ON PURPOSE ...?
SO...
ズルズル
BUT...
NOW I CAN CONFIRM THAT HE REALLY IS UP TO NO GOOD!
VERY TIRED...

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I RISKED MY LIFE TO PROTECT THIS EVIDENCE. I DON'T WANT TO JUST HAND IT OVER TO THE POLICE!
JUST IGNORE THE KID-NAPPING PART!
THIS ISN'T UNDER
OUR JU-RIS-DIC-TION
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!
!
FAINT...
WE HAVE TO BE THE ONES TO ARREST THEM...
HUH...?
ISOBE!
QUICK- FINISH ATHERING HE INFOR- MATION BEFORE HE RECOVERS ...
RING RING RING RING

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IT'S ME.
ISOBE IS MISSING.
... GOUDARE.
DON'T WORRY.
HE HAS ALREADY RETURNED.
WHAT HAP-PENED ?
TSUYUKI SHINGO KNOCKED HIM OUT AND HELD HIM CAPTIVE AFTER ISOBE FOUND OUT EVIDENCE AGAINST
WHA... WHAT...?
AND SADLY, SHINGO APPEARS TO BE USING DRUGS.
AHH....!
LEAVE THIS TO ME!
I'M GONNA HAVE HIM AR-RESTED NOW!
IT'S BEST NOT TO ACT JUST YET.

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IT'S THE GOAL OF RYUUGEN!
!
THIS IS A GREAT CHANCE.
IF WE LET HIM ACT FREELY, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND OUT HIS REAL GOAL...
NO...
TELL SHIBA TO BE ON GUARD.
UNDER-STOOD.
OKAY.
BUT, HE MIGHT TRY TO DO THE SAME THING AGAIN.
WHERE IS SHINGO NOW?
HE'S MEETING UP WITH SHIBA AND KURABAYASHI..
WHAT IS SHINGO PLANNING TO DO WITH THEM?
NO... NOT SHIBA. IS HE TRYING TO FIND KURABA-YASHI ...?

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I ALMOST REALLY DID LOSE MY MEMORY.
I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN THAT YOU ARE ME------
HAHA... SO THEN?
A CAR ACCIDENT ?
I'M BRINGING THE KEY TO THE "FINAL DAY" NOW.
HOW IS IT GOING ?
AH, THE LONG WAIT IS OVER.

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THE DRIVER WAS DRUNK... SAKAI WAS KILLED IMMEDIATELY.
SAKAI DIED NINE YEARS AGO.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T BE OF MUCH HELP.
HEY!
HOW WOULD I KNOW?
WHAT SHE SAID JUST NOW...JUST WHAT IS GOING ON...?
BANG
HUH?
LET'S HEAD OVER TO ANOTHER PLACE.
WAIT FOR ME...
.....

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LIKE I SAID ...
SWISH
BOOM
I KNOW THAT!
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING WHAT ALL THIS IS ABOUT!
SLAM!
THE PEOPLE LISTED HERE ARE ALL DEAD!
THERE'S NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THEIR AGES OR CAUSE OF DEATH AT ALL!
IS THIS LIST EVEN RELATED TO SWITCH?
AND I WANNA ASK YOU!
OF COURSE IT'S RELATED TO SWITCH.

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YOU, TOO.
KURABAYASHI, IF IT'S NOT A PROBLEM WITH YOU, LET'S GO AND CONFIRM THIS ADDRESS.
YEAH.
THIS PHOTO ...?
IT REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE HIM...
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE SAME KID, SO I CAME OVER TO VERIFY THE ADDRESS.
!
RING RING RING RING
FINALLY, SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE WORKING OUT.

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...IS SHINGO WITH YOU GUYS? CAN YOU PLEASE REMOVE YOURSELF FROM THEM?
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU.
OKAY...
KANTO LOCAL FINANCE BUREAU ..
NARCOTICS CONTROL DEPART-MENT
HELLO
.....
EXCUSE ME...
KURABAYSHI ...ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR HIM, TOO?
.....

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IF I TOLD YOU THAT I KNOW WHERE HE IS, BUT THAT I COULD TAKE ONLY YOU THERE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?
..A TRAP ...?
.....
THE KEY TO "SWITCH" ...
!
IT'S UP TO YOU WHETHER YOU BELIEVE ME OR NOT.
SMILE
...SUCH CONFIDENCE ...
... YES.
TAKE ME THERE!
VROOM
...EH? WHERE'S SHINGO ...?

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Act.26

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Intelligence Unit
IBU, THIS IS BAD.
HE'S BEEN SET UP.
NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS WHETHER SHINGO IS WILLING TO TELL US ABOUT RYUUGEN.
SOMEONE HAS BEEN DEPOSITING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY INTO SHINGO'S BANK ACCOUNT.
...AS EXPECTED
HE STARTED CONSUMING DRUGS APPROXI-MATELY A FEW MONTHS AGO.
THE RESULTS OF SHINGO'S HAIR STRAND ...
First Investi-gation Unit

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I STILL CAN'T CONTACT THEM.
I'VE ALREADY SENT OUT PEOPLE TO SEARCH FOR THEM.
HOW IS KAI-KUN AND THAT OTHER GUY?
CLICK
...OKAY THEN.
YOU'LL DEAL WITH ARRESTING SHINGO.
SOME-THING MUST HAVE HAP-PENED
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT THEY CAN'T BE CONTACTED!
SOMETHING TOTALLY UNEXPECTED!
I HOPE THAT THEY'RE OKAY...

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WANNA ARREST ME?
YOU...
SORRY, I'VE NO TIME RIGHT NOW.
TING
VROOM
WHAT IF THE "KEY" ISN'T THERE?
I PROMISE THAT HE'LL BE THERE!
... BUT ...
I CAN'T PROMISE YOU'LL BE ALIVE TO SEE IT!

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WHEN RYUUGEN WAS IN THE PROCESS OF DELIVERING THE DRUGS, THE ONE WHO SWAPPED THE DRUGS WITH THE EXPLOSIVES
SHIN-GO'S A SPY?
WAS MOST LIKELY SHINGO, WHO WAS INVESTIGATING AT THE SCENE.
BECAUSE OF HIM, TAKEI WAS ...!
BAM!
DAMN!
HONKS
I'M GOING AFTER HIM NOW ...
THAT GUY PISSES ME OFF.

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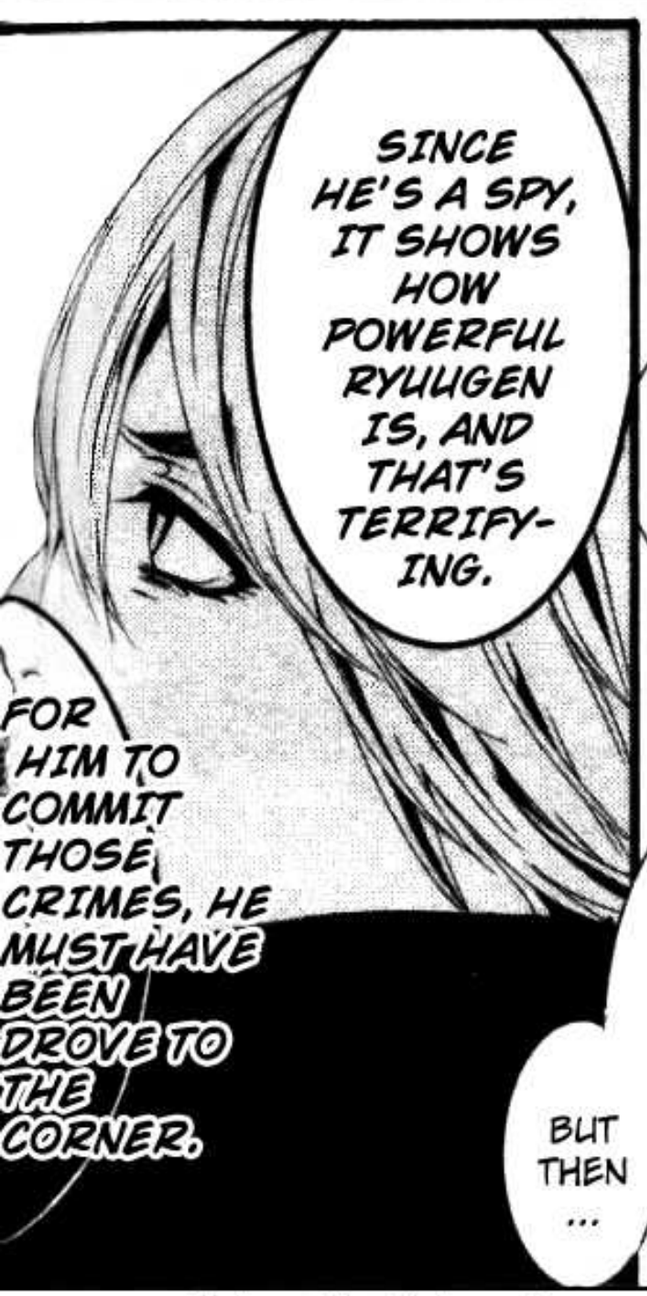
SINCE HE'S A SPY, IT SHOWS HOW POWERFUL RYUUGEN IS, AND THAT'S TERRIFY-ING.
FOR HIM TO COMMIT THOSE CRIMES, HE MUST HAVE BEEN DROVE TO THE CORNER.

KIDNAPPED AND HELD CAPTIVE?
THIS?
I JUST GOT KIDNAPPED AND HELD CAPTIVE.
YEP.
MY GOD...
GOT TIED UP...
SHINGO DID THIS...
...HOW CAN HE DO THIS TO HIS OWN PARTNER ...!
YEAH, COME TO THINK OF IT, IT WAS A LITTLE SUICIDAL OF ME.
BUT THEN ...

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IF SHINGO DID IT ONCE, CHANCES ARE HE'LL COMMIT SERIOUS CRIMES AGAIN.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO ACT FAST TO STOP HIM.
AS SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE ANY ALTERNATIVES LEFT, HE MIGHT DO SOMETHING STUPID.
BUT... WHERE WOULD HE GO ...
DON'T WORRY
I HAVE PLANTED A TRACKING DEVICE ON HIS CAR; WE JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW IT...
THIS IS THE HEADQUARTERS, ALL CARS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE.
KAI AND THAT KID ARE NOT IN THE HOSPITAL.
KAI'S LICENSE PLATE IS XXXX-XXX!
PLEASE PROTECT THEM IF ANYONE OF YOU SEES THEM!
TYPE TYPE
EVEN HAL'S MISS-ING.
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?
.....
...WHAT ABOUT THE HOME OF THIS KID ON THE LIST...?

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INTELLIGENCE UNIT
ALSO ...
THE SEARCH TURNED OUT TO BE NOTHING.
ALL OF THEM HAVE APPEARED ON MEDIA BEFORE.
...WHO ON EARTH COLLECTED THIS INFORMATION...
switch
ALIV
ALL OF THEM ARE DECEASED; THE CAUSES OF DEATH AND THE DATES ARE ALL JUMBLED UP.
THERE IS ONLY ONE SIMILARITY ...
THOSE WHO ARE RELATED TO THE LIST...
SQUEEZE
THIS SHOULD BE THE "DEATH LIST" INSTEAD!
ONLY THIS MAN IS ALIVE; THIS LIST IS DEFINITELY GARBAGE!
ALTHOUGH WE KNOW IT'S CONNECTED TO "SWITCH," WHY IS THE MEANING OF THE "ALIVE LIST" TOTALLY WRONG...
DAMN IT!! HOW LONG ARE THEY GOING TO KEEP MOCKING US?

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I NEED TO GET AWAY FROM HERE ...
I'LL BE KILLED ...
KILLED ...!
JUST WHAT HAPPENED HERE ...?
ENOUGH ALREADY!
I DON'T CARE WHAT EITHER OF YOU DO, JUST HURRY UP AND GET ME THE HELL AWAY FORM HERE!
IN THERE ...?

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KEH! YOU BRAT!
URGH!
BAM!
HA HA HA!
HE CAN'T. NOT UNTIL HE RECALLS EVERY-THING!
WAKE UP!
!
I PRETENDED TO LOSE MY MEMORIES, AND PUT A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT INTO MAKING HIM COME HERE. ALL FOR THIS.
I'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME PLANNING FOR THIS.
UNTIL HE REMEMBERS THE KEY TO 'SWITCH'...

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DID YOU KNOW? ONLY THE DRAGON ON RYUU-GEN'S RIGHT ARM IS NOT BLACK.
IT'S RED. IT ONLY APPEARS WHEN I'M EXCITED.
THE RED DRAGON ON THE RIGHT ARM? DON'T TELL ME...!
KURAB-AY ASHI!
ISOBE!
!
BANG
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

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IS THAT SO?

YOU DEFINITELY CANNOT REMEMBER THEM!

KAI, YOU MUST UNDER-STAND.

IF I HAD TO REMEMBER THEM...

IF I HAD TO REMEMBER THEM...

GRABS

!

I KNOW...

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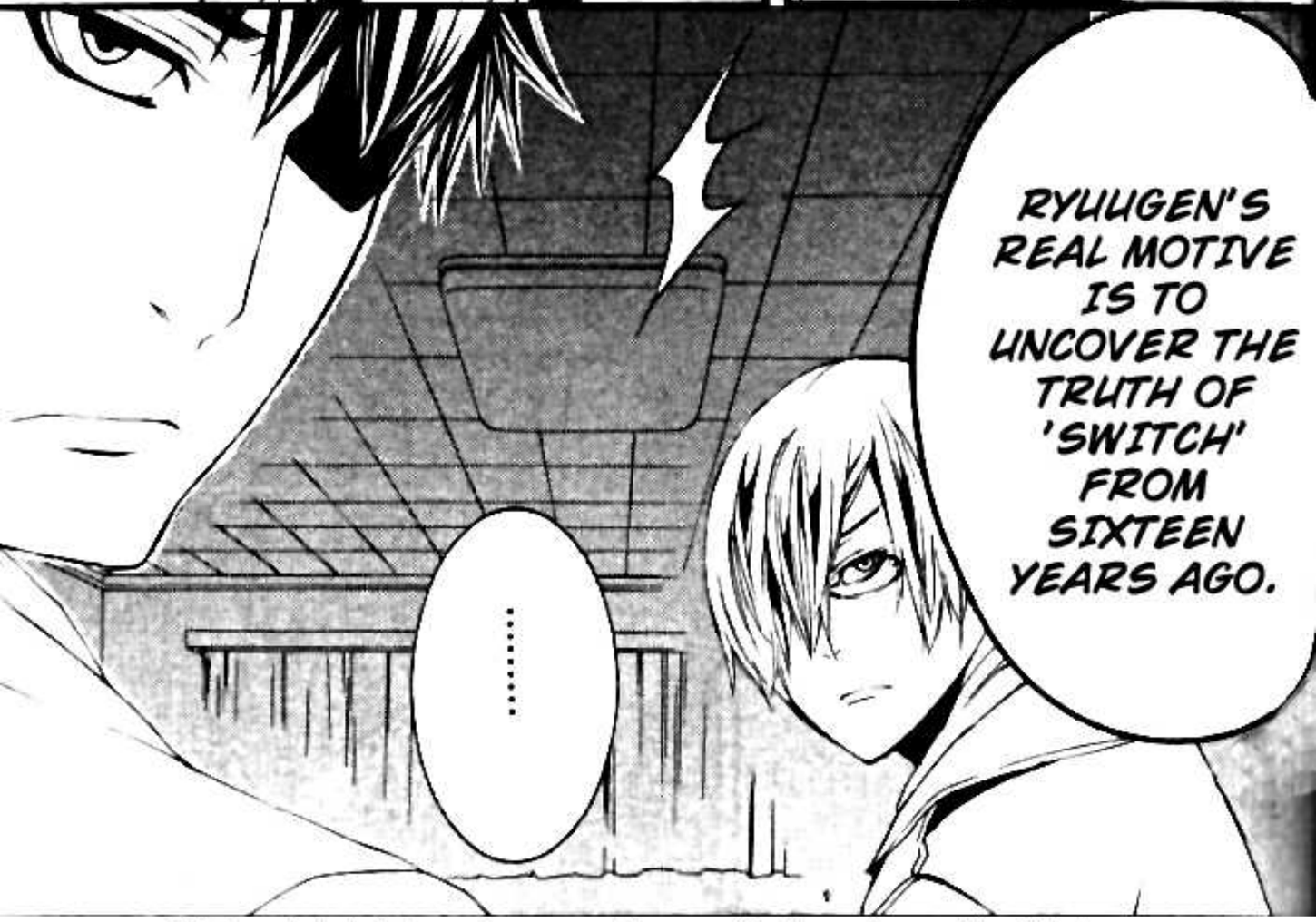
HE'S NOT IN CRITICAL CONDITION. HE'LL NEED ABOUT A MONTH TO RECOVER.
WE'LL INTERROGATE HIM AFTER HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS.
WHAT ABOUT THAT RIGHT ARM BRAT?



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.....
BOTH OF YOU SHOULD KNOW, RIGHT? THEIR REAL MOTIVE...
.....
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME TO TELL ME?
WHAT HAPPENED HERE...
ASK SHIBA.
I'VE ASKED HIM AL-READY.
HAHAHA... IT'S IMPOSS-IBLE!
JUST HAVE TO WAIT 'TIL HE RE-MEMBERS EVERY-THING ABOUT 'SWITCH'!
.....
BUT WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE-HAND.

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TSK
MR. LEFT ARM...
WHY WOULD I DO THAT?
...ARE YOU HERE TO SILENCE ME?
... WHAT ABOUT THE KEY?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WORTH KEEPING ALIVE.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.

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THERE ARE TWO DRUG DEALERS INSIDE.
AFTER THE TRANSACTION, THEY WILL LEAVE SEPARATELY.
THAT'S WHEN WE ARREST THEM!
WAIT FOR THE FIRST GUY TO COME OUT...
DAMN, WHY AREN'T THEY COMING OUT?
I'M DEFINITELY GONNA GET THOSE GUYS!
KAJIYAMA KEIGO
22 YEARS OLD (10 YEARS AGO)
NEW INVESTIGATOR
IT'S BAD LUCK TO BE OVERLY ANXIOUS!
HUH?!

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...WISH THAT WE COULD SETTLE THINGS WITH PEACE, NOT WITH VIOLENCE.
IT'D BE DANGEROUS IF YOU HAD THE GUN.
WHERE'S THE GUN?!
KEEPS IT
I...
RUSTLE
HIKI MASATAKA
22 YEARS OLD
NEW INVESTIGATOR
SORRY...
MY APOLO-GIES
Hey you two newbies! shut up!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT IT THAT WAY...
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU'LL GET KILLED IF YOU THINK LIKE THAT !!

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opens
STEP STEP STEP
!
KAJIYAMA!
SORRY. IT SEEMS YOU'RE A LITTLE SLOWER THAN WE ARE.
THIS TIME I'LL SHOW YOU GUYS HOW GOOD I AM!!
DON'T MOVE! I'M WITH THE NARCOTICS CONTROL DEPARTMENT!
STOP!
!

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SOMETIMES, A CASE ONLY NEEDS ONE PERSON.
YOU'RE ALREADY A DETECTIVE AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, AND YOU WORK ALONE...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, DETECTIVE NARITA-SAN?
YOU MUST BE PRETTY SKILLED, EH?
TURNS AWAY
!

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KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS TO YOURSELF!
YOU COCKY BAST-ARD ...
ISN'T IT GOOD THAT THE CRIMINAL WAS CAUGHT?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT SO CASUALLY ?!
ALL OUR HARD WORK WAS FOR NOTHING !!!
DAMN THAT ASS-HOLE!
If only we had known...
WE WOULDN'T HAVE EMBARASSED OURSELVES LIKE THIS!
OH WELL, THEY'RE FASTER, SO...
KAJIYAMA!
ALL THESE TALENTED PEOPLE WHO HAD TO PAIR UP WITH YOU... YOU'RE SO HARD TO WORK WITH!

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I WANT TO DO THIS ON MY OWN!
sigh
CAN'T YOU TWO JUST GET ALONG?
GET ALONG ?!
.....
KAJIYAMA.
WE ALL KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
BUT THAT...
... IS HIS ONE WEAK-NESS.
THAT GUY HAS NO IDEA HOW TO WORK ON A TEAM.
YEAH... HE'S PASSIONATE AND WORKS HARD...

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ARREST THOSE CRIMINALS MYSELF !!!
THUD
gulp
THIS TIME I'LL....
stands
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF!
BANG
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S SOME PEON DEALER OR A MAJOR ONE!
I'VE GOTTA ARREST THEM AND EARN SOME RESPECT!

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WE'RE NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICERS!
HOW DARE YOU HUMILIATE ME IKE THAT!
DON'T MOVE!
SIGH
I KNOW YOU WANT TO LOOK GOOD, BUT...
I KNOW!
IT'S NEEDED THAT YOU WORK AS A TEAM IN THIS JOB.
KAJI-YAMA.
TOUCH

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I RUSH THINGS TOO MUCH.
I NEED TO WORKING FOR US ALL, NOT JUST ME.
clenches
IF YOU GUYS HADN'T COME, I'D BE DEAD ALREADY.
!
CONSIDER THIS MY PUNISH-MENT
I LOVE THIS PART OF YOU!
HAHAHA hahaha hahaha!
KAJI !
STOP TOUCH-ING ME!!!
let go!
I HATE THIS PART OF YOU !!!
ARE YOU BLUSHING? THAT'S SO CUTE!!
HAHAHAHA

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